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FCC Comments

Date: April 26, 2012

Re: Comments Regarding FCC Proposed Changes

Comments Regarding:

Proposed changes to the universal service Lifeline program, which supports discounts on phone service for low-income consumers and to establish a Digital Literacy initiative that would provide \$60,000 in grants to k12 schools and libraries over a four year period to hire trainers, conduct training courses and provide materials to those who do not possess broadband skills.

Comments:

As a school district technology leader, we are concerned that inititation of the above program could cause not only delays in the funding process but also remove funding from schools and libraries for services that do not support telecommunication services, Internet access, or internal connections. Requiring the Universal Services Fund programs to take on this additional task will not only over-burden the fund process which already takes longer than it should, but doing so will establish a precedent for mixing E-Rate funds with appropriated grant funds which could in the long run have a profound impact on the funding formula that is already cash-strapped.

It is our recommendation that consideration to move forward by the commission should be to allow some other agency (Lifeline, High Cost Programs, etc.) to manage the Digital Literacy initiative.

Thank you for hearing our concerns.
Craig Liggett
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